

In-Fur-Nation

Your Guide to the World of Furry Fandom

Volume 17, Number 3

All The News We Get, We Print!

Summer, 2006



< Image c. 2006, Dreamworks Animation >

"That's what we do... We die, so that we might... live!"
[Ozzie, dramatic possum, in Dreamworks' *Over the Hedge*]

Hot and humid again, we go blowing right into the thick of hurricane season... Hmm, might be a good time to distract yourself with some of these cool furry items coming your way...

It's an odd summer at the movies for anthropomorphics... Not only do we get anthropomorphic animals, but anthropomorphic automobiles and an anthropomorphic house! Several CGI films from big-name studios are fighting it out for moviegoers' dollars this summer. First out of the gate was Dreamworks/PDI's big-screen version of the well-known comic strip *Over the Hedge*. It surprised a lot of people, both with its initial take at the box office (coming in second after *The DaVinci Code*) and with the legs it displayed afterward. Good enough legs, in fact, that it may have contributed to Disney/Pixar's much-anticipated talking auto movie, *Cars*, not taking off as fast as many had expected it to. (Other possible reasons for that have been the subjects of many loud debates in Hollywood and on the Blogosphere. By the way, *Over the Hedge* comes to DVD on October 17th) Still, *Cars* has shown very good legs as well, and it looks to be on track (no pun intended!) to be the #2 top film at the box office for the year (after the juggernaut that is Disney's *Pirates of the Caribbean – Dead Man's Chest*). Then in August comes the triple whammy of *Monster House* (from Sony Pictures), *The Ant Bully* (from Warner Brothers), and *Barnyard* (from Nickelodeon) – all premiering one week apart from each other. That's a lot of competition for the animation fans' dollars in one summer – to say nothing of one month!

In upcoming film news... Would you believe, anthropomorphic sports equipment?? Yes friends, it's *Everyone's Hero* from 20th Century Fox, coming to theaters in mid-September. In it, a young boy searches for Babe Ruth's stolen bat, with the help of his friend – a talking baseball, voiced by Rob Reiner. William H. Macy, Brian Dennehy, and Whoopi Goldberg (as the voice of the bat!) round out the voice cast. (The film was started as one of the last projects of the late Christopher Reeve.) Back in more 'normal' (?) furry territory is *Open Season* from Sony Pictures, coming at September's end. The comedy CGI film stars the voices of Martin Lawrence and Ashton Kutcher as a bear and deer respectively who organize the animals of the forest to try and drive out a poacher (voiced by Gary Sinise). *Season* is directed by (among others) Roger Allers, best known for *The Lion King*. Later on in the fall (November) to be

precise), a snooty rat – voiced by Wolverine himself, Hugh Jackman – finds himself trapped in the sewer in Aardman's CGI film *Flushed Away*, and penguins dance and sing in *Happy Feet* from Warner Brothers, with voices like Elijah Wood, Nicole Kidman, Hugh Jackman (again!), and Robin Williams, and direction by George Miller (*The Road Warrior*). Finally around Christmas time comes the new live-action (with special effects) of *Charlotte's Web*. Featuring little miss everywhere Dakota Fanning as Fern, Steve Buscemi as Templeton the rat (talk about typecasting!), and Julia Roberts as the voice of Charlotte A. Cavatica, the spider who saves a pig.

Word is out that *Opus* (yes, another penguin – this one from Berke Breathed's famous *Bloom County*) might get his own animated feature in 2007, from Dimension films. Also coming in 2007, of course, is the new CGI *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* movie – in March, to be precise.

You might say, "Oh, whoop-de-doo" when you hear that yet another production of *Journey to the West* (also known as "Adventures of the Monkey King") is in the works. That is, until you hear who's involved with it this time! The new film version is the long-awaited meeting of Asian film superstars Jackie Chan and Jet Li. And while it's long been rumored that Peter Jackson (*The Lord of the Rings*, *King Kong*) had been set to direct, in the end it turns out the director will be none other than Rob Minkoff (of *The Lion King* fame). Keep your eyes on these pages (and on www.monkeypeaches.com) to find out more!

Now as for Mr. Jackson... Word is circling that he's taking a serious look at adapting the *Téméraire* series of fantasy/alternate history books by Naomi Novik to film. For those not familiar with the series, the stories ponder a world in which the Napoleonic Wars were fought with the aid of soldiers mounted on companion dragons – imported to Europe from China, you see. The books in the series are *His Majesty's Dragon*, *Throne of Jade*, and *Black Powder War*, all published by Del Ray in paperback. They're also available from the Science Fiction Book Club in a 3-in-1 hardcover omnibus edition titled *Téméraire: In the Service of the King*.

After cleaning up (yet again) at the box office this last spring with *Ice Age 2: The Meltdown*, what's Blue Sky Studio's next project? None other than a CGI version of Dr. Seuss' classic *Horton Hears A Who*. Jim Carrey has signed on to be the voice of Horton the elephant, while Steve Carrell (Hammy in *Over the Hedge*) will voice the Mayor of Whoville. 20th Century Fox is looking to release the film in March of 2008.

Once again the August issue of *Animation Magazine* features the Pitch Party, where indie and upcoming artists get a chance to advertise their ideas for animated TV shows to a panel of animation experts by submitting 1/6-page ads for judging. Entries of particular note to furry fans this year include *Ice Paradise* by Devourax (www.devourax.com), *Piddles & Chubba*, Surgeon Sturgeon by Leo Antolini (www.leoantolini.com), *Kung Fu Gramps and Ninja Pig* (by Marshall Krich, *Best Enemies* by Alice Lin, *Crazy Pets* by Tripletake Media, *Maggies & Ripley* (www.strangetype.com), *Legend of the Caribbean Kangaroo* by Steve Townsley (www.caribbeankangaroo.com), and *The Recosn* by Samuel

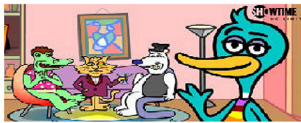
Pipes. Check out the issue or visit the *Animation Magazine* web site to find out more about these shows and their creators, or to find out how to enter your own idea. Remember, you never know what might be coming to a TV set near you someday...!

It might be worth checking out the new *Speed Racer* series being produced by Ani-Magic. There are big differences this time around: For one thing, *Speed Racer's* friend Spridle is now a grown-up, and Chim Chim is no longer a little chimpanzee – he's a full-grown anthropomorphic gorilla. No word yet on a release date, but keep your eyes on www.speedracerlives.com for more information.

Animation historian **Jerry Beck** has produced a new animated short for Nickelodeon's Random Cartoon series, called *Hornswiggle*. It features **Rene Auberjonois** as the voice of Hornswiggle, a crazy rhino who wants to compete with the Lord of the Jungle, Zan-Tar. Look for it on Nickelodeon starting this fall.

Speaking of shorts, visit www.endurancechallenge.com to check out *Endurance Challenge: Mordred's Island* – the reality show for an altered reality. A team of (somewhat) noble heroes from around the multiverse is pitted against a band of monsters in a series of elimination events – literally! **Billy West** (*Ren & Stimpy*) provided much of the voice-work. So go check it out – the first episode is free, hee hee hee...

Quietly, and with very little of the usual fanfare, Disney released two animated sequels to DVD recently. *Leroy and Stitch* is the fourth feature-length animated film in the Lilo and Stitch series, and it closes out the storyline of the *Lilo and Stitch* TV series. The evil Dr. Hamsterviel escapes from the galactic prison again, and forces his old partner, Jumba Jookiba, to create an entirely new evil monster – named Leroy. The evil hamster then clones a giant army of Leroy's in a bid to take over the galaxy. It's up to Lilo, Stitch, and all 625 of Jumba's experiments to try and stop them! Meanwhile, *Brother Bear 2* has made it to stores as well. This time Kenai and Koda – as well as their fan-favorite moose friends – must come to terms with the opposite sex. Speaking of fan favorites, word is out that Disney's *TaleSpin* finally comes to DVD later this summer. The first 27 episodes (including the original 4-part "Plunder and Lightning") of this animated adventure TV series hit the stores on August 29.



< Image c. 2006 Showtime Entertainment >

The Internet sensation, Cable TV star, and *fabulous* dresser known as *Queer Duck* has returned in his own feature-length DVD (titled simply *Queer Duck: The Movie*) from Paramount Home Entertainment. The openly gay aquatic avian and his friends deal with aged divas, queer-bashing clergy, and buying a theme park in this flash-animation film written by series creator **Mike Reiss** and directed by **Keth Feinberg**. In the vocal cast, well-known cartoon voices (**JM Bullock**, **Kevin Michael Richardson**, **Maurice LaMarche**, and **Billy West**) rub elbows (and other things?) with well-known Hollywood faces (**Mark Hamill**, **Tim Curry**, **Conan O'Brien**, and **David Duchovny** as Jesus – yes). Meanwhile, fans of **John Kricfalusi** and *Ren & Stimpy* will want to pick up *Ren & Stimpy: The Lost Episodes*, also from Paramount. The "lost" episodes are, of course, the new series that Mr. Kricfalusi created for Spike TV in 2002 that were (somehow!) even "more adult" than the original series!

Warner Brothers fans, race out right now and grab your copies of *Animaniacs Volume 1* and *Pinky & The Brain Volume 1* on DVD (from Warner Home Video, of course!). Not only do you get the first season of each show, but also fun and informative interviews with voice actors **Rob Paulsen**, **Jess Harnell**, **Tress MacNeille**, **Maurice LaMarche**, **Sherri Stoner**, and more) among the extras.

New in full color from Alias Comics: Be nice to your toys – or else they might put you on trial for crimes against toykind! In *Toy Box*, Robert Parks and his son Tommy fall into a magic toy box and end up in a land where toys rule with a plastic fist. Coming soon from **Grevioux**, **Giangiacomo**, and **Ponzielli**.

Speaking of toys... in *I'm Not Your Teddy*, a young boy is "mistakenly" turned into his annoying younger brother's teddy bear! It's 48 pages in full color, written by **Mark Garcia** with art by **Ben Roman**, released by Rorschach Entertainment.

If you haven't found it yet, check out *Kana's Island*, a new full-color comic series written and illustrated by **Mark Page** (self-published, and available at many comic book stores). A young native boy ventures beyond the mountains protecting his tribe from the other half of their new island home. He journeys to where strange sounds have been coming from – and strange creatures await him! You yourself can journey to www.kanasland.com – and also visit www.mpagestudio.com to find out about Mr. Page's other works.

More new independent comic books: *Oxblud* is a full-color series written and illustrated by **Kurt Mitchell**. In the future, nature life is sacred – but engineered life is not, so genetically created human/animal gladiators battle to the death for the entertainment (and, later, the nutrition) of the general public. And the greatest living warrior is named *Tor Oxblud*.

Sonic the Hedgehog's earliest adventures at Archie Comics are reprinted in the *Sonic the Hedgehog: Beginnings* full-color trade paperback, which collects the original *Sonic* issues #0 – #3. The first adventures of Sonic, Miles, Princess Sally, Antoine, and more, brought to you by **Gallagher**, **Shaw**, and **Manak**.

New from Dark Horse Comics is the *Chickenhare: House of Klaus* black & white trade paperback by **Chris Grine**. *Chickenhare* (part chicken, part hare... yes) and his turtle friend Abe find themselves on the run from Klaus, a mad taxidermist with a penchant for exotic animals – like *Chickenhare*.

An unusual look at war, from a very different angle... Vertigo presents *Pride of Baghdad*, a graphic novel in full color and hardback from **Brian K. Vaughn** (*Y: The Last Man*) and **Niko Henrichson** (*Barnum*), coming in September. During the American bombing of Iraq in 2003, a pride of lions escapes from the Baghdad Zoo. Their conversations with each other and other animals call into question the nature of freedom, peace, and sacrifice.

New from Image Comics in September: **Stan Winston's Realm of the Claw** returns as a 184-page full-color graphic novel in trade paperback. Chaos breaks out when a rift is discovered between worlds, and two warring tribes of feline warriors bring their battle here to Earth...

Recent discoveries from the Science Fiction Book Club: In the *Chronicles of Ancient Darkness* series by **Michelle Paver** (published by Harper Collins), Torak is a young tribesman from northern Europe of 6,000 years ago (after the Stone Age but before farming) who discovers his ability to communicate with a young wolf – just in time for the two of them to team up to fight evil forces threatening their world. Books in the series include *Wolf Brother*, *Spirit Walker*, and the upcoming *Soul Eater*. In a different vein, there's the *Nursery Crime* series by **Jasper Fforde** (published by Viking Penguin), featuring the adventures of detective Jack Sprat (former giant killer) and his argumentative assistant, Mary Mary. Starting off with *The Big Over Easy* (investigating the murder of Humpty Van Dumpty III),

the latest book in the series is *The Fourth Bear* (in which Jack seeks the murderer of Goldilocks – found dead near the home of three bears, and whose murder may or may not be connected with the dreaded Gingerbread Man killer!).

For fans of **Fred Perry** and *Gold Digger*, Antarctic Press presents the *Gold Digger Max Pocket Manga* Volume 1, a black & white collection of cross-over stories, special features, and one-shots by Mr. Perry himself. Also look for *Gold Digger: Super Poster Mania*, a collection of 48 full-color posters of your favorite *Gold Digger* characters.

From Tokyo Pop, look for the "cine-manga" full-color adaptation (digest-sized) of the upcoming animated film *Open Season*. Also look for the boxed set collection of the popular anime/Disney manga *Kingdom Hearts*, Volumes 1 – 4. Soon after, look for *Kingdom Hearts: Chain of Memories* Volume 1, the first manga digest based on the new PS2 game. Sora, Donald, and Goofy have become separated – after their magical powers have been stripped away!

More books for Disney-heads: The latest edition of *Disney A to Z: The Official Disney Encyclopedia* by Disney archivist **Dave Smith** comes out at the end of summer, featuring more than 6,500 entries – right up to recent Disney park attractions like *Turtle Talk with Crush* and recent films like *Chicken Little*. Also from the archives comes *Disney Dossiers: Files of Character from the Walt Disney Studios* by **Jeff Kurti**, which features head shots, film clips, comics, newspaper clippings, and memorabilia items for dozens of favorite Disney heroes and villains. Both of them are available soon from Disney Editions.

Fans of **L. Frank Baum's** fantasy world should look for *All Things Oz* (in hardcover, from Bud Plant), edited by **Linda Sunshine**. It includes illustrations from all 40 original Oz books, original advertising art with Oz themes, posters from around the world for the Oz plays and movies, plus four original Oz short stories by Mr. Baum.

Flying Starts is a graphic novel by **Arkas** (published in full color by Flying Starts Comics). A sparrow attempts to raise his son in the harsh environment of a decaying city... a son who mostly seems to be determined to drive his father crazy!

This September, Vanguard Productions presents a brand-new collection of the original fan-favorite *Bucky O'Hare*, this time in black & white manga digest format (by **Larry Hama** and **Michael Golden**, of course). Captain Bucky O'Hare and the star-faring crew of the Righteous Indignation struggle to free Bucky's homeworld, Warren, from the evil clutches of the Toad Warriors.

Animator and illustrator **David Colman** has a new book coming out, *The Art of Animal Character Design*. Described thusly: "From field studies to understanding strong mechanics, discover what it takes to become prolific and successful in the art of animal character design. Draw and design animals with personality!" Visit David's web site at www.davidisdoodles.com to find out more, or keep your eyes on www.amazon.com for a release date.

New furry books coming out from Sofawolf Press... *Fur-Piled*, Volume 1 brings **Leo Magna's** popular slice-of-life furry web-comic to the printed page for the first time. A young gay fur named Husky makes new friends and learns some valuable lessons – and not just at school – when he moves to Santa Monica. Then, there's more furry college fun in the *Buffalo Wings Annual 2006*, featuring art and stories by original creator **John Nunnemacher** as well as **Vince Suzukawa** (*Class Menagerie*), **Brian Reynolds**, and **Brian Yee**. The third issue of the furries-throughout-the-ages zine *Histori-Morphs* is out, featuring stories by **Jefferson P. Swycaffer**, **Samuel C. Conway**, **Lanny Fields**, **David A. Cowan**, and **Vern Susman** – all profusely illustrated, of course. **Ursula Vernon** returns with Volume Two of *Digme*, featuring more adventures of her cynical wombat anti-hero in this popular web comic. And, of course, there's *Pendant of Fortune*, the new adult-romance novel

by **Kyell Gold**, continuing the anthropomorphic adventures begun in Gold's *Ursa Major* Award-winning novel *Volle*. Take a look at www.sofawolf.com for information on these and many other publications.

Stumbled across at the World Science Fiction Convention in Anaheim: New dragon-themed books from Edge Science Fiction and Fantasy (www.edgewebste.com). *Dragon's Fire*, *Wizard's Flame* is a young-adult novel by **Michael R. Mennenga** concerning the adventures of Zac – a young dragon (only 75 years old) troubled by his inability to master breathing fire. He ventures out to find his fire with the help of his friends: A moose, a squirrel, an elderly elf, and a human sage. This first book in the series will be followed soon by *Zac and the Valley of the Dragons* and *Mistress of the Dragon*. Then there's *Daughter of Dragons* and *The Dragon Reborn* by **Kathleen H. Nelson**. Young Lathwi, banished from her village for sorcery, was supposed to be sacrificed to the dragons. Instead, she winds up being raised by a wise dragon named Taziem. Reaching adulthood, Lathwi must use her own sorcery and the powers gained from her foster mother to battle both evil mages and crazed dragons.

"When he was six weeks old he slew a dragon – and that was just the beginning!" *The Mouse Knight* stories, written and illustrated by **Cutter Hays** for the Rat and Mouse Club of America, have finally been released in a hardcover "dead trees" version. Visit www.mouseknight.com to find out more.

Coming in 2007: *I, of the Wolf*, a new graphic novel by **Neil Kaplan** (and others). As a young child, Tom witnessed a horrific murder. Now a grown man, Tom follows the visions in his head and other clues as he seeks out the truth about the wolfmen living among us – and just who are the real monsters. Visit www.anyaisle.net to find out more yourself.

New from Sababa Toys comes *Dragonology: The Game*, based on the best-selling book *Dragonology*. In this board game players travel the globe by air, land, and sea, gathering information on nine different species of dragon and trying to become the world's top dragonologist.

It seems the Walt Disney Company is looking into some very... new and unusual ways of marketing some established characters in 2007! First off there's *Disney Bunnies*, a new line of illustrated storybooks (written by **Laura Driscoll**, **Kitty Richards**, and others; and illustrated by various Disney artists) featuring the adventures of Thumper and his sisters in the Great Wild Wood. If their storybooks take off and become popular, you can expect a whole slate of new products based on the bunnies. Meanwhile, for those perhaps not into the cute & sweet angle so much, there's *Disney Dragonkind*. Check it out: A line of sculptures (from Gentile Giant Studios) that re-imagines several famous Disney Dragons as fearsome, majestic creatures. Okay, Maleficent from *Sleeping Beauty*, that makes sense. But Mushu, from *Mulan*? Or Elliott, from *Pete's Dragon*? You got it... and that's just the start. Check out www.gentlegiantdl.com to take a look at the current line. Then, be looking for them at a toyshop or comic book store near you, starting next year.

Looking to learn the art of animation – not just how to work a software package? Check out "The Online Animation School" at www.animationmentor.com. Founders **Shawn Kelly**, **Carlos Baena**, and **Bobby Beck** (all of whom have worked at Industrial Light & Magic and Pixar Films) have assembled a top team of animation experts to present not only video lessons, but on-line critiques of student work throughout the process of designing, animating, and completing your own film. For more information and a complete course catalog, write to them at AnimationMentor.com, 918 Parker Street, Suite 12, Berkeley, CA 94710.

Also found at Comic Con this year: **Mike Roush** is an illustrator with a distinctive way of drawing animal characters. *Octopus Ink* is a series of portfolios – both black & white and color – that Mike has produced for sale. Visit www.mikerosh.com to find out more.

Also, *Pixipets* is a new comic-strip collection of simple line-drawing animal toons created by **Kyle Hoyt**. Check 'em out at www.piximix.com.

Obituaries

Furry fandom and fandom in general lost a good and talented friend early this year. Last January, **Cynthia McQuillin** passed away from renal failure, at the age of 52. One of the pioneers of folk music (science fiction folk music), Cynthia was a talented singer and songwriter with an enormous collection of cat-themed songs (originals and parodies) to her name. She was a special musical guest at ConFurence 9 in 1997 a Guest of Honor at ConFurence 10 in 1999, and a frequent face at Further Confusion in the years following – all of them along with her partner of many years, **Dr. James Robinson**. Many of Cynthia's recordings are still available on CD – Visit www.random-factors.com to find out more.

< From Rabbit Valley Comics: >

We're proud to announce a Rabbit Valley (R) Comics Exclusive, the next 3 issues of *Spoo Presents!* All of these books are for adults only. Tell as many people as you can! *Spoo Presents Issue #4 - Coyote River*. **Chris McKinley** (*Associated Student Bodies*) presents the second episode in this gay cowboy series. Ride 'em, cowboy! Charles and Buck can't seem to get enough of each other: In the woods, at the range, in any place possible. But, what about the ranch? A cowpoke's gotta keep working, and Buck's been slacking. What will the boss say? *Spoo Presents Issue #5 - Mark Wullgar's The Legacy of Celune's Werewolves and Souls of the Past*. In *The Legacy of Celune's Werewolves* - A newcomer to the pack is destined to be the next Alpha, but will he be able to adjust to the sudden discovery that he's a werewolf? Some of the wolves are very happy to welcome him to the pack as their lusty efforts show him the sexual ways of the wolves. But there is another who would be king. *Souls of the Past*. Chubby bears galore! There's a new student in town, and the boys are very eager to make his acquaintance. Will this angel in disguise bring love from above or release a wave of sexual decadence not seen in ages? And finally... *Spoo Presents Issue #5 - Rocketship Rodents and Professor Chronofur*. *Rocketship Rodents*: The high flying hijinks continue as our heroes agree to take foxy Ambassador Redtail and his entourage back to the Canid star systems. What is the source of the new forces that threaten his people and all of the galaxy? Who could the traitor be? Is there enough lube in the universe for Captain Pulsar and his crew? What are you waiting for? Find out now! *Professor Chronofur*: In our last thrilling adventure, The Professor and his assistant Matchpatch had found Space Station Lubricious abandoned by everyone... everyone, that is, except the vile Dildog Warriors and their sinister master Doldose! What could the Dildogs be doing? What is their monstrous plot? And who is the mysterious Lt. Pike? Activate your Timebands, Chrono-Rangers! It's time for Professor Chronofur! Visit www.rabbitvalley.com to find out more about these and many other furry items – ye ed-otter!

< From Bucky's Barn: >

Bucky's Barn is a professional costumed character service in Southern California, available for hire to your next party, gathering, or event. Featuring a menagerie of animal fur-suits (more than 40 kinds) played by experienced actors – They play in character, they stay in character. For booking information, call (626) 966-4011, or write them for a complete list of available characters: Bucky's Barn, 18537 Arrow Highway, Suite M-108, Covina, CA 91722.

"Mother? Is that you? "Gaspi! Rose... Bud..." [Ozzie, dramatic possum, in Dreamworks' *Over the Hedge*]

Keep it Fresh! So, we hear you say, how do I keep up my **Subscription to In-Fur-Nation?** We're glad you asked! A subscription to *In-Fur-Nation* will bring you even more of what furry fans are looking for around the globe. Find out what to look for, and where to go! It's brought right to your doorstep four times a year (winter, spring, summer, and fall), and still for just a whopping **\$5.00** for a year's subscription. That's right, for a year. Just send a check made out to "Furry Stuff" (and note it's for *In-Fur-Nation*), or heck, just send a \$5.00 bill in a darkened envelope. (Trust us, it's an old tradition in the 'zine community. It works). To subscribe, to find out more info, or to send us notes for our Furry News, write us at: *In-Fur-Nation*, P.O. Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92642-1958. What, don't want more dead trees in your mailbox? Fine! Let us know and we'll e-mail you your issues of *In-Fur-Nation* as .pdf files, right to your inbox.

A Note to the staff members of our many Furry Conventions:

Hey! We wanna help you get the word out! Having a cool-looking web site is a neat thing, but remember: There are still a significant number of fans out there (furry and otherwise) who don't use the World Wide Web, or who don't use it to it's full potential. For them, there's this cool old thing folks on the Internet call *Snail Mail*. That's where we come in! Send us information, and let us help you get the word out to furry fans, artists, dealers, and publishers in the U.S., Canada, Europe, Japan... Look below for our reasonable ad rates, and don't forget... send us text blurbs and you get in for **free!**

A Request to Our Readers: Hey, got a favorite comic store or bookshop that carries your favorite furry titles, or that you wish would carry more? Give us their address! We'll send them a copy of *In-Fur-Nation* each quarter, and keep them abreast of the kind of comics and media that you would like to see on their shelves! Remember, they can't order it if they don't know it's out there! As an *alternate*: Know of any good comic zines or web sites that might be looking to trade issues? Get them in touch with your ed-otter! (That'd be me, **Rod O'Riley** at rodso64@hotmail.com)

Sometimes it takes a lot of bull to be a master detective.



CattleCapers

by Dawn M. Kravagna

Lured out of early retirement, master detective Adam Steer partners with the cops of Precinct 13 1/2 to save a kidnab victim before she is (gaspi) fowly murdered.

Aventine Press

ISBN 1-59330-247-9

Ask for it at your favorite bookseller or Amazon.com
young adult/adult

Advertising in In-Fur-Nation: For those who've been asking, ads in In-Fur-Nation come in these sizes: 1/8-page "business card" size for \$5.00 per issue, and 1/4-page size (4 1/2" tall by 3 1/4" wide) for \$10.00 per issue. Full-page inclusions can also be arranged for \$50.00 an issue. Check should be made out to Furry Stuff. Send camera-ready art and text to P.O. Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92642-1958, or send email to rdoso64@hotmail.com.

(Many thanks to all the people who helped provide information for this issue both by mail and via Internet! Invaluable help was also received from the web masters of the various furry conventions out there.)

The Ursa Major Awards (for the Best in Anthropomorphics in 2005)

This past June, the annual Ursa Major Awards were presented at Rocket City Fur Meet 2006 in Huntsville, Alabama. More formally known as the Annual Anthropomorphic Literature and Arts Award, the Ursa Major Award is presented annually for excellence in the furry arts. It is intended as Anthropomorphic (a.k.a. Furry) Fandom's equivalent of the Hugo Award® presented by the World Science Fiction Society, mystery fandom's Anthony Award, horror fandom's Bram Stoker Award, and so forth. The Ursa Majors are administered by a dedicated group of fans, and presented by the Anthropomorphic Literature and Arts Association (ALAA). Nominations for the awards are open to the public, and later ballots are made available by the ALAA. The physical award plaque was designed by **Heather Bruton**.

Eligibility in ten categories is for works featuring intelligent and/or talking animals first published during the calendar year in question (in this case, January through December of 2005). This can include new compilations of older works, such as a new collection of previously published separate works. The winners were chosen by popular vote from five finalists in each category.

And, the Ursa Major winners for 2005 were:

- ? **Best Anthropomorphic Motion Picture** – *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe* (Walt Disney Pictures, released in December of 2005)
- ? **Best Anthropomorphic Dramatic Short Work or Series** – *Cake Walk*, aka *There She Is* – Step 2 (SamBakZa)
- ? **Best Anthropomorphic Novel** – *Volle*, by **Kyell Gold** (published by Sofawolf Press)
- ? **Best Anthropomorphic Short Story** – "In His Own Country", by **Kristin Fontaine** (Tales of the Tai-Pan Universe #39)
- ? **Best Anthropomorphic Other Literary Work** – *Tales of the Questor, Volume 1* by **Ralph E. Hayes, Jr.** (Julu.com)
- ? **Best Anthropomorphic Comic Book** – *Usagi Yojimbo*, by **Stan Sakai** (Dark Horse, monthly comic book)
- ? **Best Anthropomorphic Comic Strip** – *Faux Pas*, by **Robert & Margaret Carspecken** (on-line daily comic strip)
- ? **Best Anthropomorphic Fanzine** – *South Fur Lands* (Published by **Bernard Doove** & others)
- ? **Best Anthropomorphic Published Illustration** – *Stephanie Stone* for the front cover of *Transformations: A Forest Tales Story*, by **Bernard Doove**
- ? **Best Anthropomorphic Game** – *Sly 3: Honor Among Thieves* (designed by Sucker Punch Productions and published by Sony Computer Entertainment)

Congratulations to each of the winners! The Award plaques were presented to each of them by mail, following the ceremony. From the Ursa Major Awards staff. Our thanks to the many folks who helped to set up the awards, and our special thanks to everyone who sent in nominations or voted! Tell your friends to do the same!

To find out more about the Ursa Major Awards, including how to make recommendations and nominations, visit www.ursamajorawards.org. Or, write to: The Ursa Major Awards, c/o Rod O'Riley, P.O. Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92642-1958 to send recommendations or request more information. Official nominations will open in January, 2007. Keep your eyes on the next issue of *In-Fur-Nation* for more about the Ursa Major Awards for 2006!

And here's a look at Coming Attractions...

Furry (and sorta-furry) Conventions coming your way soon!

H-Con

September 29 – October 2, 2006 in Grasellenbach-Scharbach (near Frankfurt), Germany

H-Con is intended to be an "old-time" furry convention, where every participating fur is also part of the organization staff itself. The intention is to host the conference annually (each autumn). A full membership to the convention costs 70 Euro. Visit their web site at www.h-con.afc-group.org to find out more (in German).

Western PA Fall Furry Weekend

October 6 – 8, 2006

The Western Pennsylvania Fall Furry Weekend is an anthropomorphics (or "furry") gathering located in the Pittsburgh Metropolitan area. This event is organized and coordinated by local furies and is now celebrating it's seventh year. We have events and activities planned for all three days, including the Friday Furry Social, the Fall Fur-b-que on Saturday, and Furry Breakfast at Panera Bread plus an outing to the Pittsburgh Zoo followed by dinner at Cici's Pizza Buffet on Sunday. This year, the Guest of Honor for the Furry Weekend is **Shawntae Howard** (*Extinctioners*)

The event hotel is the Comfort Inn Pittsburgh North, 2801 Freeport Road, Pittsburgh PA 15238. Western PA Fall Furry Weekend has a secured a flat rate of \$69/night, plus taxes, for up to five guests. To reserve a room, call the Comfort Inn directly at (412) 828-9400. When you call you must tell the agent at the desk that you are with Group 2185 to get this room rate.

Pre-Registration rates are available until September 23 at \$15.00 for regular memberships and \$20.00 for Supporter Memberships (which includes extra goodies). At-the-Door Registrations will be \$25.00. Make checks or money orders payable to **Patrick Glen Rockhill** and mail them to: Mr. Patrick Glen Rockhill, 100 West 8th Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15215.

Once again the Fall Furry Weekend Charity will be "Animal Friends," Pittsburgh's only no-kill animal shelter. The FFW staff will be conducting a Chinese auction at the Fall Fur-b-que to help raise money to donate towards a new, modern facility to educate pet owners, rehabilitate sick and injured animals, and to accommodate animals awaiting adoption.

Visit www.wpafw.org for all the details.

FurFright

FurFright is an Anthropomorphic Halloween Convention taking place October 20 – 22, 2006 at the Sheraton Bradley Hotel in Windsor Locks, Connecticut. FurFright is a 3-day con with a full schedule of programming Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Discounted room rates are good Wednesday (Oct 18th) thru Tuesday (Oct 24th), so arrive a bit early and stay late so you don't miss a moment of the con!

This year FurFright is VERY proud to welcome two of the finest artists in or out of the fandom as our Guests Of Honor: **Cybercat** (Stephie Stone) & **Taurin Fox**! Both artists will be hosting panels/Q&A sessions, and selling their work in our Dealers' Dungeon, so stop by and make them feel welcomed!

Once again, the hotel is the Sheraton Bradley International Airport, 1 Bradley International Airport, Windsor Locks, CT 06096. Phone numbers are (860) 627-5311 or (877) 422-5311 (toll free). Their web site is www.sheratonbradley.com. The room rate is **\$91.00** per night for single/double occupancy, and **\$101.00** per night for triple occupancy (no more furs per room, please). Call the hotel directly to reserve a room. Mention that your reservation is part of a group and the group's name is "FurFright" (you will most likely need to spell it for them) to get our discounted room rate. DO NOT RESERVE YOUR ROOM ONLINE or you will be unable to get our special rate.

FurFright attendees can register on-line or by mail at the Monster (**\$30.00**), Zombie (**\$50.00** or more), or FrankenSponsor levels (**\$85.00** or more) until September 23, 2006. Visit their web site at www.furfright.org to register on-line, or write to them at FurFright 2005, P.O. Box 264, Durham CT 06422-0264.

Oklahoma 2006

Celebrating the art of "Ruffin' It!", this year's Special Guests include the artists **Goldenwolf** and **Lightfoot Kyohti**.

The convention will be held Halloween Weekend (October 27-29, 2006) at the Roman Nose State Park near Watonga, Oklahoma. Several types of accommodation are found there, but check the web site for what's available where and when. Memberships are available for **\$29.00** until October 1st, and go up at the door (Patron and Sponsor memberships are available too!). From the web site: "Taking place each year the weekend before Halloween, Oklahoma brings together furies from all over the mid-western and southern United States in one of the most beautiful outdoor settings in the country. Filled by many as the most affordable furry convention in the world, Oklahoma brings us all together for a fantastic weekend of art, costumes, and friendship around the orange glow of the campfire. If you've never attended a furry convention before, or if you're one of our regular family members, we look forward to seeing you this year! Our cabins are going like hotcakes! If you're interested in reserving a cabin, please do so soon, as we only have four left. Of course, we also have a variety of other accommodation options should the cabins fill up!"

Check out www.oklahoma.com for more information about cabins, accommodations, directions, and other con details.

Furlooven 2006

Furlooven is an annual one-night furry-themed Halloween party held in Orlando, Florida. Membership is limited, and the activities are centered on a large banquet and a dance. This year's event will take place on October 28th. Keep your eyes on www.floridafurs.com/furlooven for updates on the 2006 event.

Howlooven 2006

October 28, 2006
Coquitlam, British Columbia

Once again at the Best Western Convention Center, 319 North Rd., Coquitlam, BC, Canada, V3K 3V8
(604) 931-9011
Rooms are **\$99CDN** per night (single bed) and **\$109CDN** per night (two beds).

Howlooven is a large-scale one-night furmeet for folks in Western Canada and the US - a relaxing place for anthropomorphic art, costume, performing and animation enthusiasts from Western Canada and beyond to meet up for a couple of days and have some fun! Running all day Saturday and with some 'Fursuit Bowling' on Sunday (email info@howlooven.org) - this year's Howlooven is going to be a blast! It's a great chance to run around in your costume, meet more of the locals and just have fun!

Registration is **\$20CDN** Pre-Registration, which includes a t-shirt (before September 30), and **\$20CDN** at the door, which does not include a t-shirt. More information can be found at www.howlooven.org, or write to them at: Howlooven, 714 Evans Place, Port Coquitlam, BC, Canada V3B 7M3.

Midwest FurFest

This year's Midwest FurFest features the theme of "The Country Fair!" Hurry, hurry, hurry! It takes place November 17 – 19, 2006, once again at The Hyatt Regency Woodfield (1800 East Golf Road, Schaumburg, Illinois 60173, about 30 miles outside of Chicago. The telephone number is (847) 605-1234. Rooms are available for **\$90.00** per night.

The FurFest Guest of Honor this year is the artist and illustrator known as **Heather "Kyoht" Luterman**.

Pre-Registration is: **\$30.00** for Full Membership until September 30, 2005
\$100.00 for Sponsorship, which includes meal with Guests of Honor and T-shirt, plus more!
\$40.00 after September 30, 2005, and at the door.

Please make checks payable to "Midwest FurFest". Mail Registration with payment to: **Midwest Furry Fandom, P.O. Box 3561, Urbana, IL 61803**. Or, check out their web site at www.furfest.org for information on guests, events, activities, and more!

Well, that's all for now – and that's a lot! Here's hoping we'll get to see you again, and soon. But it's up to you! Keep up your subscription to *In-Fur-Nation* and keep up with the world of Furry Fandom! And don't forget to check out our web site at www.infurnation.com. We'll see you this October! [Rod O'Riley, your ed-otter]



Cynthia McQuillin,
1953 - 2006. R.I.P.
and Blessed Be.



PLEASE RECYCLE

**Now listen to me
VERY Carefully...**



<Image c. 2006, Dreamworks Animation>

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